

Medusa: The Shipwreck, The Scandal, The Masterpiece - Jonathan Miles

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In June 1816, the Medusa, flagship of a French expedition to repossess the colony of Senegal from the British, set sail but ran aground off the desolate West African coast. The evacuation of the frigate was chaotic and cowardly - 146 men and one woman were herded aboard a makeshift raft which was then abandoned in mid-ocean, cut loose by the convoy of lifeboats which had pledged to tow it to safety. The drifting raft carried those who survived to the very frontiers of human experience. Crazed, parched and starving, the diminishing band slaughtered mutineers, ate their dead companions and organized a tactical extermination of the weakest among them. Among the handful of survivors from the raft were two men whose written account of the tragedy catalogued the trail of government incompetence, indifference, and cover-up. Their book became a best-seller which rocked Europe and inspired the promising artist, Thodore Gricault. Reeling from an illicit affair with his attractive young aunt, he threw himself into an exhaustive study of the Medusa tragedy. Set in the politically fragile world of Restoration France, the murk of Georgian London and along the dangerous West African coast where the French were covertly regenerating the outlawed slave trade, Medusa witnesses error and outrage turned into a bestseller, and that bestseller transformed into one of the masterpieces of Western art. Author: Miles, Jonathan Publisher: Vintage Digital Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: Medusa: The Shipwreck, The Scandal, The Masterpiece Pages: 00352 (Encrypted EPUB) On Sale: 2012-02-29 SKU-13/ISBN: 9781845951450 Category: Art : History - General Category: Biography & Autobiography : Historical - General Category: History : Modern - General

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